

Daily  
**Nebraskan**  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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## Quibbles & bits

*Much of King's dream is still unfulfilled*

A full generation has passed since the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. Although much has changed since his death, part of his dream remains unfulfilled.

Today, 20 years after King was shot on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn., we should remember the contributions to society by the black leader. Washington lawyer Charles Morgan, the first white man to serve as a director of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, called King one of the most influential public figures of the 20th century.

"He resurrected a society," Morgan said in a Los Angeles Times article. "No one else did that. No one else except (Franklin) Roosevelt."

"King made every day Election Day in America. He forced American citizens to watch. He forced the Congress to act. The courts responded properly, and together, they vindicated the Constitution of the United States."

The Times article cited several changes in civil rights in the last 20 years, most of which were spurred by King.

"Southern blacks sit on the very courts, city councils and school boards that rigidly imposed inferior status upon them a generation ago," the column said. "They hold middle-class jobs long reserved for whites only and attend the most integrated school systems in America, the public schools lying below the Mason-Dixon line."

But John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat in the House of Representatives and black activist, said the civil rights movement, since King's death, is no longer a movement.

"Something is missing," Lewis said in the Times article. "It has been missing ever since his assassination — a sense of moral clarity, moral authority, urgency."

"Today, we are caught up in getting our piece of the pie. We no longer speak in moral terms. We don't ask what we can do for society, that large segment of society that is still left behind. Without Dr. King, that force is missing. That direction is missing."

Churchgoers at the Carmelite Chapel in Paramus, N.J., had to find another church for Easter Sunday services. Mass isn't celebrated in the 18-year-old chapel on Sundays because Bergen Shopping Mall, which the chapel is in, is closed.

According to an Associated Press story, the 150-seat chapel, known as the Chapel on the Mall, has been a hit on the other six days of the week. It attracts about 200 people a day for three masses daily on weekdays and four on Saturdays. Chapel pastors say it will continue to flourish as long as there are shoppers.

At one service, the Rev. Brice Riordan looked out over his congregation and said, "Dear friends, it's encouraging to see such a great number of you. There must be a sale at Stern's or something."

## Letters

### Jackson as president dream, art implies

A cartoon by Jeff Anderson (Daily Nebraskan, March 30) depicted the Rev. Jesse Jackson being asked by Santa Claus and the Easter bunny, "So Jesse... we hear you believe you will be the next president."

It was my impression that Anderson is implying that Jackson's dream of becoming the president was nothing more than a fantasy.

Well, it may not have occurred to the artist, but it was once a fantasy to speculate that a human could run the mile in less than four minutes, or that we could one day reach the moon, or that a former Hollywood movie star named Ronald Reagan would become president.

Mfon A. Umoren  
senior

### Reader: Where do we draw the line?

In response to Christine Allerheiligen (Letters, April 1), I am sincerely sorry to hear of your brother's motorcycle injury.

I do not doubt you in that people probably should wear helmets while riding motorcycles. I understand your view on the proposed helmet law, and I'm sure many people, including state Sen. Dan Lynch, can tell a story of an accident where a helmet could have saved a life or serious head injury. I am sure that many people can relate to the proposed seat belt law in the same way. Arguments exist on both sides, but my question is where do we draw the line when it comes to the government telling us what we can and can't do?

It's funny how this is supposed to be a free country when there are more and more things we can't do. I ride my motorcycle with my helmet most of the time, but I wear it because I want to, not because someone tells me to. It's not all a matter of what is right or wrong. Again, I'm sorry to hear of the accident, but Allerheiligen's brother made a choice that he knew involved

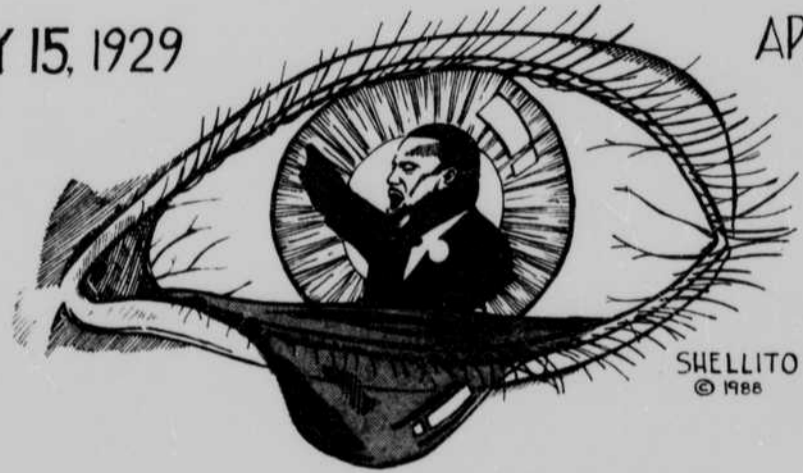
a risk. When I ride my motorcycle without my helmet, I also take that risk. I do it because I want to as a matter of choice. I'm aware of the possible end result. How long will it take before people realize that we have to draw the line with the amount of legislation imposed on everyone? Do you want the state and federal governments to take on the task of making all the "right" decisions for each individual? If so, you are in the wrong country. Maybe Russia would be a better place for you to live. I can understand laws that protect people, but this has gone too far. We are not robots or puppets on a string for legislative officials to control. Not wearing a helmet does not infringe on anyone else's physical well-being, only my own. My family and friends would have to understand that it was my decision to take the risk of not wearing a helmet if I was injured or killed in a motorcycle accident.

Tim Matza  
senior  
business management

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

JANUARY 15, 1929

APRIL 4, 1968



SHELLITO  
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20 YEARS AFTER  
THE DEATH OF A  
VISION

## Get ready for Dukakis in '88

*'Vice-president jinx' may be enough to offset economic reason*

Making predictions has always been a popular pastime. The recent NCAA basketball tournament pools provided a great opportunity to exercise one's prediction skills. One must usually predict a few crucial upsets and bank on the success of a "Cinderella" team in order to win the pool.

The race for the office of president of the United States is no different. Few predicted that Vice President George Bush's fast-break offense would leave Kansas Sen. Bob Dole in the dust for the Republican nomination.

Despite a stiff challenge by the Rev. Jesse Jackson in the Democratic race, few would have guessed that consistent wins by Massachusetts Gov. Mike Dukakis would add up faster than a run of three-point shots.

Dole was my favorite, and I am disappointed that he didn't catch on with Republicans. As the Senate Republican leader, Dole has been the master of making the critical compromises to get bills through Congress. Also, Dole would have been one tough hombre on the deficit as a sound fiscal conservative. Farmers would have benefited from Dole's farm policy experience on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

However, my favorite has been eliminated in the Presidential Tournament. Fortunately, Bush and Dole agreed on essentially every major issue. That was Dole's problem — he couldn't position himself away from Bush to attract voters.

A look at the other side of the bracket has Jackson battling Dukakis in a tight semifinal match. Dukakis will probably make it to the finals against Bush by picking up big states like New York and Pennsylvania and winning everything west of the Mississippi.

With Bush and Dukakis battling it out in the finals this November, one wonders how to make heads or tails out of the showdown.

Dukakis has election history on his side. Voters have not been kind to vice presidents — Richard Nixon in 1960, Hubert Humphrey in 1968, Gerald Ford in 1976 and Walter Mondale in 1984. All lost because of the "vice-president jinx," which is similar to the "Sports Illustrated

jinx," where athletic teams tend to lose after they have been featured on the front page of Sports Illustrated. People tend to look for fresh candidates, no matter what administration the vice president comes from.

However, Bush has a lot going for him because Dukakis has taken some dangerous stands that voters may reject, just as they rejected Walter Mondale.

Dukakis has sought the economic issues as a method to gain the pocket-book votes. Instead of using the words "inflation" and "unemployment" (both at an eight-year low), Dukakis has lambasted the Reagan administration for creating low-pay, dead-end, hamburger-flipping jobs that have not spelled relief for many, especially minorities.



Joel  
Carlson

Dukakis is wrong. A recent report from the Council of Economic Advisers shows that between 1982 and 1987, jobs grew 2.7 percent a year. Minorities fared better than the general population — blacks (4.7 percent a year), Hispanics (6.8) and black teen-agers (8.2). Half the new jobs pay more than \$20,000.

Management and administrative jobs grew especially fast (21 percent) in this period, while the slowest growth was in unskilled "hamburger-flipping" jobs. According to columnist George Will, real median family income rose 9 percent between 1981 and 1986, with blacks doing better (15.5) than other groups.

Dukakis also has taken credit for what he terms the "Massachusetts Miracle." He boasts that he "can do for America what has been done in Massachusetts."

Massachusetts has enjoyed some economic success, but so has much of the New England area. As the Wall Street Journal noted: "The only problem is that Gov. Dukakis has been at best a bystander. The state's economic boom in the mid-1980s can be

traced largely to two factors: tax cuts and federal defense spending, both of which Dukakis opposed."

Taxes were cut and state spending was brought under control in the early 1980s by his predecessor, Democratic Gov. Edward King. In 1986, Massachusetts was awarded with a whopping 6.4 percent of the nation's prime defense contracts, even though the state has only 2.6 percent of the country's population.

In fact, jobs have been lost with Dukakis as governor. Since 1984, job growth in Massachusetts has been 30 percent below the national average. Despite the hefty defense contracts, Dukakis' Massachusetts has lost 11.4 percent of its manufacturing jobs since 1984 (41 percent of all the manufacturing jobs lost nationally).

Dukakis also has claimed that the Reagan tax reduction package in 1981 has contributed greatly to the federal deficit and benefited the rich more than the poor.

Dukakis is wrong again. Federal revenues did not diminish between 1980 and 1987. The 1981 tax cut produced tax savings of \$1.48 trillion over the past seven years, but new taxes passed by Congress of about \$1.6 trillion have more than compensated for the tax cuts.

As for the gap between the rich and poor, Rep. Richard Gephardt said it best when questioned by Dukakis about his vote for the Reagan tax package. The moderate Democrat quipped: "I'm proud to lower taxes by two-thirds on people earning \$50,000 and below."

Gephardt was right. The tax burden has actually been greater for the rich and less for the poor. According to columnist William F. Buckley Jr., the poorest 50 percent of families will pay 5.9 percent of all taxes in 1988, down from 6.7 percent in 1980. Meanwhile, the rich (top 5 percent of all wage earners) will pay 40.9 percent of the taxes in 1988, up from 37.2 percent in 1980.

Nevertheless, Dukakis will probably be the next president of the United States. The vice-president jinx may be enough to offset the economic positions of the governor from Massachusetts. Shall we start a pool?

Carlson is a third-year law student.

## Letter Policy

The Daily Nebraskan welcomes brief letters to the editor from all readers and interested others.

Letters will be selected for publication on the basis of clarity, originality, timeliness and space available. The Daily Nebraskan retains the right to edit all material submitted.

Readers also are welcome to submit material as guest opinions. Whether material should run as a letter or guest opinion, or not run, is left to the editor's discretion.

Letters and guest opinions sent to the newspaper become property of the Daily Nebraskan and cannot be returned.

Anonymous submissions will not be considered for publication. Letter should include the author's name, year in school, major and group affiliation, if any. Requests to withhold names will not be granted.

Submit material to the Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448.